

Dawn Huntley

From: Genevieve Primeau <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 9:52 AM
To: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Subject: Testimony in support of HB5798 and HB5799

The Honorable Stephen Casey,

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey
Chair, House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Yes on Townhomes and Oversized Lot Splits (H5798 and H5799)

Dear Chairman Casey and Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing:

I'm writing in support of two important housing bills, HB5798 that allows for more single-family townhomes to be built and HB5799 which allows oversized lots to be subdivided to match the surrounding housing.

The vast majority of Rhode Island residents recognize the housing shortage as a major contributor to the rising cost of living. As a renter in the Providence area, I have been personally affected by the lack of options and steep increase in rents. Working class folks who live modest, frugal lives are having to spend too much income on housing costs, and it the economic consequences are being felt broadly.

H5798 will make it easier for families to buy a starter home, and seniors to downsize in their community, by legalizing townhomes in all two-family zoning districts.

H5799 will empower property owners who own a double lot to make their own decision about whether to split the lot in two, creating new homebuilding opportunities while still requiring the resulting parcels to resemble the surrounding neighborhood.

These measures provide a simple mechanism for increasing the housing supply, without overhauling our existing structures and neighborhoods.

I want to thank the bill sponsors, Rep. June Speakman, and Rep. Cherie Cruz, for their dedication to addressing the housing crisis in Rhode Island, and I respectfully ask the Committee to vote in support of these two important changes to zoning laws that will help create much needed housing in Rhode Island.

Respectfully,

Genevieve Primeau
Providence

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